

Meeting Minutes
Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Wednesday, January 16, 2013, 3:00 p.m.
Third Floor Meeting Room, Winchester Hall

Present: Tom Anderson, Robert Black, Lisa Gaver, Kate Heilman, Dick Ishler, Tim Jones, Mark Lancaster, Margie Lance, Chris May, Lonnie Ropp, Fred Ugast

Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources (OSER) Staff: Shannon Moore, Lisa Orr, Sabrina Harder, Nicole Robinson

Other attendees: Steve Cassis, Bruce Holstein, Carolyn Holstein, Shawna Lemonds, Rich Maranto, Joe Richardson, Eric Soter, Shawn Stanley

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Margie Lance called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Administrative Items

Resignation of Don Briggs: Don has been unable to attend meetings due to other commitments and has decided to resign from the Sustainability Commission. He will continue to provide municipal updates on behalf of Emmitsburg.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes: Shannon Moore noted a correction to the spelling of Brad Gottschall's name. Dick Ishler made a motion to approve December minutes, as corrected. Fred Ugast seconded the motion. All in favor; minutes approved.

3. Presentation- Composting

Bruce Holstein, Member, Carroll County Waste & Recycling Study Group

The Carroll County Waste & Recycling Study Group was tasked with creating a long-range plan to reduce municipal solid waste. Bruce presented an overview of the Group's report to their BoCC. There is an 80% recycling goal by 2018 in place. He also mentioned the recommendation for a "Pay as You Throw" model to charge for waste disposed. Food waste accounts for 25% of the waste stream, which can be diverted from the landfill by composting. Bruce discussed the concept of resource recovery vs. landfilling and how waste management is becoming more about resource management.

4. Update on Zoning Text Amendment for Composting
Eric Soter, Director, Community Development Division
Shawna Lemonds, Project Manager, CDD

Eric presented on the status of the Frederick County Zoning Text Amendment for Composting. Consideration was given to different scenarios for on-site generation and use vs. off-site generation. The draft version is for limited food waste composting. Food scraps can pose an issue for handling guidelines. Input is still expected from the state.

5. Legislative Update

Lonnie Ropp presented the draft Proposal for MD General Assembly Review and Input, prepared with Tim Jones. The Proposal outlines different phases for reviewing legislation and presenting opinions to the BoCC for consideration.

There was a discussion of the different groups the Sustainability Commission Members are affiliated with that may also have ties to, and interest in, overlapping legislation. The sectors identified included builders, realtors, and farmers.

Motion by Fred Ugast to form a sub-committee to focus on legislative issues and develop a process for submitting recommendations to the BoCC to be used presently and in future years, which would be based on the "Frederick County Sustainability Commission Proposal for MD General Assembly Review and Input" document created by Lonnie Ropp, with a change in the language for Phase 1 to allow for multiple bills to be followed. Second by Dick Ishler. All in favor; motion passed.

Sub-committee formed with members Lonnie Ropp, Tim Jones, Mark Lancaster, Fred Ugast, and Dick Ishler. Sub-committee with review current bills of interest to assess which will be followed for a group opinion position.

6. Sustainability Commission Member Sharing (continued from Nov. meeting)

Fred Ugast: Fred is a 12-year resident of Frederick. His business finances solar projects and addresses renewable energy credits. He views local jobs as a key to sustainability.

Dick Ishler: Dick is a native of PA and retired bank president. He is a 15-year resident of Frederick and opened the Goddard School on Yellow Springs Rd. He is an active Realtor and practices composting and recycling at home. He is the former president of the Citizens Against Kempton Electrical Substation group. He has plans for a retirement home in NC, developed with a green builder. He also feels that he brings a capitalist perspective to the Sustainability Commission.

7. Updates and Comments

Sustainability Commission Member Comments

Robert Black: He attended a conference and feels that there is a need to educate people on how farming really works. 240 people attended the event with good speakers and exhibitors.

Lisa Gaver: Regarding the conference mentioned by Robert Black, Commissioner Gray briefly attended. Most attendees were from Montgomery County. Very valuable information was presented. There also a meeting this past Monday morning about nutrient trading. Lisa's farm was reviewed as a model farm with 287 acres of crop land, with cover crop. She was disappointed with the quality of the year-long review.

Tim Jones: There is a Solarize Frederick presentation at 6:00 p.m. tonight, at Green Drinks (Rich Maranto provided a brief intro to Green Drinks for new meeting attendees; Green Drinks is a social gathering monthly following the Sustainability Commission Meeting). There was also an article about Solarize in the Frederick News Post.

Mark Lancaster: He will be attending the International Builders Association Meeting next week.

Chris May: Efforts are underway to protect MD solar projects and credits from out-of-state entities.

Fred Ugast: The Frederick News Post announced that Emmitsburg issued an RFP for a wastewater treatment plant solar system and there is a Ft. Detrick RFP for a solar project.

OSER Staff Updates

Shannon Moore: Shannon has been doing presentations related to the Accounting for Growth Policy. Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) has asked her to serve on a group to address credits and fees, and the fee-in-lieu for stormwater utility fees. Current legal battles are being seen over stormwater in other areas in the region.

Lisa Orr: Lisa is serving as a liaison to the City of Frederick's Green Team. There is potential for a solar installation at the airport. Interest has begun in the Solarize Frederick initiative.

Municipal Updates

None

8. Public Comment

Steve Cassis: Local zoning was needed to address composting, but a champion is needed to have composting facilities be viable. Steve is asking the Sustainability Commission to pick-up and champion this issue. No interest has been shown yet by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

9. Adjourn – 5:03 p.m.

The February Meeting will include a tour of Towne Place Suites and the meeting location will not be Winchester Hall; updates will be sent via email.

Minutes submitted by Sabrina Harder.